

## **TANF SERVICES FUNDED IN WISCONSIN**

### **KINSHIP CARE**

#### Program Description:

Wisconsin pays a cash benefit called a Kinship Care payment to caretaker relatives of minor children. This is a child only payment. Caretaker relatives are providing a service that allows displaced children to remain in the care of their extended family. The Kinship Care program preserves the ability to place children with caretaker relatives while providing appropriate oversight of placements to ensure children's safety and well being. The Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) administers the Kinship Care program.

Caretaker relatives who wish to apply for Kinship Care benefits contact the county or tribal human/social services agency that does an assessment of the home for appropriateness prior to placement and refers the case to the local Child Support Agency to establish and/or enforce child support orders. Once eligibility is approved, a monthly Kinship Care payment of \$215 per child is issued to the caretaker relative. A Kinship Care eligibility review will be completed by the county or tribal human/social services agency at least once every 12 months. While Kinship Care placements are typically voluntary, placements may also be ordered by the court.

#### Client Group Served:

Relatives caring for children who are not their legal responsibility are the client group served. They are providing a service to the child and the community and have no work requirements.

#### Critical Indicators:

The number of client/families served is approximately 8,900 per month.

**TOTAL TANF FUNDING: \$26,100,000**